



ILLINOIS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

12/20/11

Ms. Karen V. Gregory  
Secretary  
Federal Maritime Commission  
800 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20573-0001

Subject: Docket No. 11-19, *U.S. Containerized Cargo Flows – Response to NOI*

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce, representing thousands of Illinois businesses and their employees, is submitting these comments in response to the Federal Maritime Commission's Notice of Inquiry on factors that may cause or contribute to the shift of cargo destined for the U.S. inland from U.S. to Canadian and Mexican seaports.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce represents businesses of all sizes, from single-person organizations to some of the largest house-hold names in Illinois business. Our membership reaches every sector of Illinois' economy from manufacturing to service, logistics to technology and our member companies and the Illinois economy rely on the free flow of people, goods and services between our North American Trading partners. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is proud that Illinois' number 1 and number 2 trading partners are Canada and Mexico respectively and we will work to maintain these relationships as long as it is in the best interest of our members and Illinois' economy.

Trade between the United States and Canada, as well as the ability to choose from among a variety of North American ports for imports and exports, are essential to the success of the businesses we represent. We are glad to see the Federal Maritime Commission taking an interest in these issues from a vantage point of competitiveness and urge the Commission to consider policies that will further encourage the free flow of goods and that will stimulate economic activity instead of creating barriers that stifle it.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. Please include this letter in the public docket for this proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas H. Whitley".

Doug Whitley  
President and CEO  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce